

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

FEBRUARY 13, 2014

VOL. 35, NO. 49

\$1.00



Agawam Hockey . . . 15

INSIDE

Arts	18
Calendar	23
Education	10
Public Safety	7
Sports	14
Classifieds	19

24 PAGES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Education chief visits Robinson Park School

Students 'elated' by meeting

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

"It was really cool. He saw how great our school is," said Cameron Cofer.

Cameron, 9, is a student at Robinson Park Elementary School. He was part of a trio of fourth graders who served as tour guides for Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone when he visited the school on a recent Friday afternoon. One of the town's four elementary schools, it serves nearly 400 students in grades K to 4.

He and his two classmates, Lillian Kennedy and Sophia Benvenuto, are elected representatives from the school's three fourth-grade classrooms who often serve as school ambassadors at special events, such as Malone's visit.

Cameron said Malone asked a lot of questions about what students like about their school and what they're learning. "He visited all our classrooms. He wanted to see what we do here – and he was impressed by all the technology we're using."

First visit to Agawam

It was Malone's first visit to Agawam since becoming secretary of education in 2013. Malone has been meeting regularly with students, educators, administrators, and school committee members during school tours across the state.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

During a recent visit to Robinson Park Elementary School, Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone posed for a photo with three fourth graders who served as his tour guides: (from left) Lillian Kennedy (with Malone), Sophia Benvenuto, and Cameron Cofer. They are standing in front of a special welcome banner made for his visit and signed by all the students.

The visits provide Malone with feedback he uses in his role of helping Gov. Deval Patrick "close persistent achievement gaps, promote innovative and bold strategies in public schools, give students greater access to high-quality education, and maintain Massachusetts' position as a world leader in education," said Rachael Neff, spokesperson for the state's Executive Office of Education (EOE).

The three fourth graders said Malone – formerly a school superintendent in Brockton – was impressed that students were following the Common Core curriculum. "He saw all the writing we do in all our grades and was surprised by how much learning we do here," said Lillian, 9. Added Sophia, also, 9, "He saw what we're learning and he saw that we're very well educated."

Principal Cynthia Palazzi said she only had two days' notice that Malone planned to visit the school on Jan. 31. She said the short notice was not a problem, however, since there was nothing special she or her staff needed to do to get ready.

No special preparations needed

"The only thing special that we did was to make a welcome banner at the main entrance signed by all our students. There are so many good things happening every day in every room – and I was happy to show them all off. When Secretary Malone visited, what he saw was what we do here every day – we didn't need any advance notice for that."

Please see CHIEF, page 6

Council to reconsider union contracts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council will be asked to reconsider the contracts proposed by seven different unions representing town employees throughout Agawam Town Hall, public safety, and public works.

The council did not approve funding the contracts at its Jan.

21 meeting. The resolution and the subsequent funding transfers were defeated by 5-5 votes, lacking a majority to pass. Councilor Gina Letellier was absent from the meeting due to illness and spoke about the matter at the Feb. 3 meeting.

She suggested the council hire an independent counsel to advise them on the recourse for the unions, who have threatened to

See COUNCIL, page 6

Turley Publications wins four press association awards

BOSTON – Three newspapers owned by Turley Publications Inc. received four awards on Saturday, Feb. 8 from the New England Newspaper & Press Association (NENPA) for its distinguished photography, journalism and advertising during the past year.

The awards, which were given out at a banquet dinner inside the grand ballroom at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, included two second place wins and two third place finishes. Nearly 3,000 daily and weekly entries were received from across New England for NENPA's annual Better Newspapers Contest. Expert judges chose only about 400 first, second and third

Please see AWARD, page 6

Theriault crowned 2014 Agawam Colleen

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Kelly Theriault was named the 2014 Colleen by the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee on Sunday morning in a coronation ceremony held at Chez Josef.

Theriault is a senior at Agawam High School. She plays soccer, skis, and plays lacrosse.

She outlasted five other participants in the 14th annual contest to receive the honor of leading Agawam in their St. Patrick's Day float, as well participate in other St. Patrick's Day-related functions.

Theriault has been looking forward to competing since she was young.

"I have looked forward to the Colleen Coronation ever since I was a little girl when my older sister, Erin, went for it," Theriault said. "My sister had been on the Court and I was able to witness

Please see COLLEEN, page 22



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

2014 Colleen Kelly Theriault is elated as she is cheered by the crowd in attendance at the coronation.



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Boldyga secures funding for repair of North Westfield Street

AGAWAM – State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, was successful in securing an amendment to the Transportation Bond Bill during the nearly 12-hour session on Wednesday, Jan. 29. The bill, which passed 151-0, offers \$12 billion to the Commonwealth including \$300 million for local road and bridge repairs during fiscal year 2015. It included 262 amendments; among them was an amendment Boldyga submitted to aid the district, including \$500,000 for the repair and improvement of North Westfield Street.

“I’m happy that I was able to advocate for our district with the successful passage of this amendment to the Transportation Bill,” said Boldyga. “The amendment will provide \$500,000 in available funding for the repair and improvement of Agawam’s North West-

field Street, also known as Route 187. Unfortunately, due to winter weather conditions, the road is in much need of paving and repair and in its current state is not a very pleasant road to travel. My office has received quite a few phone calls about the road and hopefully, this will help improve its condition.”

The \$500,000 in funding would be designated for repair and improvement of North Westfield Street from the Westfield town line to the intersection of Southwick Street, also known as Route 57.

The bill will now head over to the Senate where it will need a favorable vote. For more information, visit Boldyga’s local office in Cooper’s Commons, 159 Main St., Agawam.

Neal introduces legislation to jumpstart economy

WASHINGTON D.C. - Congressman Richard E. Neal, ranking member of the House Ways and Means Select Revenue Subcommittee, introduced legislation recently to jumpstart the sluggish economy, finance critical infrastructure investments, fight income inequality and create jobs. The “Invest in US Act,” extends and reauthorizes key bond measures beneficial for our states and municipalities, extends several critical tax credit initiatives, sets up an infrastructure bank, increases the minimum wage and provides small businesses with tax relief.

“Right now the U.S. economy is stuck in a rut, the unemployment rate remains stubbornly high and the growing income inequality in America threatens to derail our economy altogether,” Neal said. “In December 2013, we saw the economy only add 74,000 jobs, our lowest since 2011. Accord-

ing to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, in 2013 the economy averaged adding 183,000 jobs a month.

“At this current rate, the Federal Reserve says the unemployment rate will remain above 6.5 percent until 2015. This is simply unacceptable, and America can do better, and we must. The recession has wiped out eight million jobs, and it is imperative that we get them back. That is why I introduced the “Invest in US Act.” This legislation will go a long way in creating an environment where our economy can take off by making the strategic investment needed to spur growth. Furthermore, the legislation takes full aim at the growing income inequality by increasing the minimum wage, while also providing tax relief for businesses that hire new employees and buy new equipment.”

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we’ll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week’s “Where is it?” will run in next week’s edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch
This clock helps emergency crews keep time somewhere in Agawam. Tell us, do you know where it is?

Last week’s photo: First Baptist Church, located at the corner of Main and Elm streets.





Yali Gonzalez

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Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Blood cancer: Networking event planned for St. John’s

By Christopher Faille
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM—St. John’s Church Parish Center, located on Main Street in Agawam, will host a networking event Tuesday, March 4, intended to jumpstart The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Western Massachusetts.

Also, beginning in late April, Dr. Jay Burton of Springfield Medical Associates, and Kara Sawyer, a registered nurse – both blood cancer survivors themselves – will facilitate a monthly support group for patients, their loved ones, and caregivers dealing with blood cancer. The first meeting of that group is planned for St. John’s Church Parish Center.

Local resident Maryann Paleologopoulous will be working with them in facilitating the support group.

At the March 4th meeting, Burton will discuss his own experience as a cancer survivor, and the “primary care cancer survivorship program” he is developing in the greater Springfield area. Guests will also enjoy a complimentary dinner courtesy of Millennium Pharmaceutical and E.B.’s Restaurant.

The event is not a fundraiser. It is, as Paleologopoulous put it, “an exciting welcome to a much-needed network of support in our community.”

While the range of terms for blood cancers can seem intimidating Burton said leukemia involves the cancerous increase of certain white blood cells known as blasts. Lymphoma, though also a blood cancer, may develop in the lymph nodes and involve a solid tumor of lymphoid cells. Multiple Myeloma is a cancer of the plasma cells, and involves abnormal plasma cells accumulating in the bone marrow.

Myelodysplastic syndromes are conditions

that suppress the production of the myeloid class of blood cells. “Basically,” Burton said, “it is a disease in which the bone marrow shuts down and stops producing white cells or platelets.”

Asked about the incidence of leukemia in western Massachusetts, Burton revealed that in Berkshire and Franklin counties, between 6.7 and 8.4 people per every 100,000 have leukemia. In Hamden and Hampshire counties, the incidence is higher: between 8.5 and 9.7 people in every 100,000.

Taking all cancers together (and both sexes) the incidence for Hampshire County is 447.9 to 476 people per 100,000.

Burton graduated from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Long Island, in 1984. He has always been a primary care physician he said, serving on the “first line of defense” in response to patient needs. He described his alma mater as one with a focus on the musculoskeletal system and with a more “holistic” approach to medicine than some.

In May 2010 he was diagnosed with leukemia. His leukemia has been in remission since a round of chemotherapy “that almost killed me,” he said.

Pressed a bit on whether he would recommend different approaches, perhaps more holistic approaches, to the treatment of cancer than are at present prevalent in the U.S., he declined to make any sweeping statement. “Treating cancer is another aspect of medical care – much depends upon the individual doctor and his strengths and proclivities.”

Burton, in his capacity as a patient, has benefited from a stem cell transplant, he said.

Anyone interested in attending the March 4 dinner and Burton’s talk there should RSVP by Feb. 28 by calling (413) 789-0200 or emailing mentalhealthcare@comcast.net.

GATHERING GOODIES...



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Members of the Agawam and Wilbraham Junior Women’s clubs pose with the 80 “goody bags” for homeless children. The 16 women met at the Agawam Senior Center recently to fill the bags with donated items for Birthday Wishes, a Boston-based nonprofit organization that holds birthday parties for children living in shelters throughout the Northeast.

Memorabilia sought

The Agawam Historical and Firehouse Museum is preparing an exhibit on Riverside Park. Anyone that has memorabilia they would like to include in this exhibit is asked to call Anne at 786-3031.

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Opinion

Your name can be stolen, just like your property

While many people still think of criminals as people who wear masks or hoods, or roam our neighborhoods in the dead of night in dark clothing, the modern trend of behavior among the unsavory element could just as easily be carried out in broad daylight. And if these villains are wearing a mask...it could be yours.

We are, of course, referencing the growing and frightening statistics pertaining to identity theft and while specific calls into the dispatch centers are not nearly as numerous as for property-related crime, there is a cause for concern and it may be that local law enforcement has – to this point – only seen the tip of the iceberg. According to the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), an estimated 16.6 million Americans, or seven percent of those 16 and older, experienced at least one form of identity theft in 2012. For purposes of these statistics, identity theft is defined as unauthorized use or attempted use of an existing account; unauthorized use or attempted use of personal information to open a new account; or misuse of personal information for a fraudulent purpose.

And while stolen items can in many cases be replaced (albeit at considerable expense), according to the Federal Trade Commission, the federal agency responsible for tracking and responding to crimes involving identity theft, it takes an average of two years and \$1,400 for someone to resolve such matters. That is often due to the length of time it takes to discover the crime has occurred, and in the meantime, the thief may have had mail diverted, opened new accounts and drained a portion of what you have at your disposal. Just as disturbing, if not more so, is the reality that people sometimes resort to identity theft not to purchase items on someone else's credit, but to provide a cover for even more wicked acts.

We recognize that local law enforcement often has limited resources to combat the menace that may cross many town lines, but they should always be the vehicle for initial reporting of the crime and it is positive that they have committed themselves to the education of the public on these vital concerns on numerous occasions in the last several years.

Those who believe they may have been the victim of identity theft should call their local police department.



Letter to the Editor

Transforming Work Opportunity Center would be 'detrimental'

To the editor:

It is with the utmost respect that I implore you to consider my feelings, as well as my son's, in the following matter. To my understanding, there is a plan underway to transform or even to close the work centers for special needs people in Massachusetts. Collectively, Gov. Duval Patrick, representatives of the Department of Developmental Services, Arc of Massachusetts, and the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers claim these individuals are being exploited by making sub-minimum wages. This is not true and certainly does not represent the total picture.

These individuals are in a stable environment, earning wages as a result of the rate at which they work. My son, who is a 32-year-old with Down's Syn-

drome, has been attending the Work Opportunity Center in Agawam for the last 10 years. I know firsthand that he may do a job well, but not necessarily fast, as I would think may be the case with many who attend the facility. They excel at their own pace when given a job and as a result, receive a paycheck which they are proud of at the end of a two-week period. It isn't the dollar amount they receive, but knowing they are an important part of that work place.

Since 1969, Work Opportunity Center has provided vocational training and employment for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities. They also network with local businesses in the area, so as to keep those unable to work in the community at the workshop doing product assembly, mail processing, and the like. More importantly, it offers these individuals personal growth, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment, as well as promoting social interaction and companionship with people they can identify with. A wonderful staff works with program participants on individual skills and job development, depending

on their needs.

To transform these workshops (key word 'work') into programs consisting of art or music or perhaps doing board games, would be detrimental. Many will not survive out in the community in regular employment, relating to employers and co-workers who may not understand the patience required to communicate with a person who is collectively or physically challenged. This would inevitably lead to feelings of inadequacy.

We all know that unemployment is at an all-time high, so this is an unrealistic venture on the part of these departments, to claim that these individuals can achieve competitive employment in the community at minimum wage. This may happen for a small percentage, but for the majority of these special people, the workshops are their life.

Please help me in my quest to stop this ridiculous process.

Barb Govoni
Hampden

2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jlbaskin@

turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in con-

tested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

AGAWAM

The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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KEITH TURLEY
Executive Vice President

DOUGLAS L. TURLEY
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PHONE
413.786.7747
Fax: 413.786.8457

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

Office Manager
Teri Machia
aan@turley.com

Editor
Jennifer Wroblewski
jwroblewski@turley.com

Subscriptions
Charlann Griswold
cgriswold@turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

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Taking up the towel

The roads of Jesus' Palestine were plain dirt – in dry weather deep in dust, and in rain liquid mud. Every walk soiled the feet. That's why just inside the doorway of homes sat a basin of water with a towel. The custom was for the servant to greet visitors and wash their feet.

On this night when Jesus gathered his disciples for a meal, the wash-basin sat unused. The disciples' minds were riveted on more noble thoughts – dreams of thrones and power and glory. So Jesus got up from the table, prepared himself, and began to wash the feet of his followers and dry them with a towel.

Down on his knees, washing dirt from the feet of those whom He had called to follow Him is a fitting parallel of Jesus' whole life and leadership. He set aside His garments that night just as He had set aside His glory in heaven. He washed men's feet just as He cleansed us by dying a criminal's death. When Jesus finished He again took up His garments and returned to the place of honor at the table, just as He was taken up from the grave and seated again with the Father.

The towel reveals His perspective on positional power. We live with the notion that leaders must be exalted. But Jesus exemplified that being a true King means giving oneself to serve. He deconstructed the icon of leaders clamoring for power, of people climbing

over each other to get to the top. He inaugurated a kingdom of foot washers. I don't wash your feet so that you wash mine, but so that you may in turn wash someone else's feet. Jesus' self-emptying love reveals the way of the cross.

Jesus' towel teaches us we love God by loving others. This means that you, my neighbors, my family, my co-workers are now the appointed agents authorized to receive the gratitude I owe my King. As I wash your feet, I wash Jesus' feet.

When I'm unable (or unwilling) with any consistency to "take up the towel," when Jesus' way of leadership fades or just doesn't make sense, usually it means that it's time to let Him wash my feet again. It's time to let the King wash me again. It's time to let our King who knew from where he had come and to where he was headed, our King

who knew that He was in the absolute center of His Father's will, our extravagant King, whose heart overflows with love for us all, to wash my feet again.

To the degree that we allow Him to overwhelm us with His love, it is to that degree we may with joy-filled gratitude wash the feet of those He brings to us.

"In as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Mat 25:40

FAITH MATTERS



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Chambers join to host Career Speaker Day

The West of the River Chamber and the Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Technical Educational Center (LPVEC) will host the annual Career Speaker Day Monday, March 17 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the LPVEC, located at 174 Brush Hill Ave., West Springfield.

This annual event brings in new business and technology professionals each year to speak to classes and help students gain a better understanding of the workplace after education.

Speakers and their presentation topics this year include Jack Cotton and Todd Landers, automotive; Michael Succi and Dan Newberry, carpentry; Paul DiGrigoli and Jim Kumenga, cosmetology; Mark Tansey and Marcel Oui Met, culinary arts; Luke Pawlek and Brian Frodema, design and visual; Gerald Kiernan and Joshua Taniwha, facilities management; David King, Libby Doleman and Noelle Bellefleur, fashion; Walt Steinmetz and Deborah Walsh, Graphic Communication; Dr. Brian Sutton and Tony Suffriti, health assisting; Dan Crouss and CMD Technology Group ISSN; and Chuck Kelly and Mountain View Landscaping, landscaping.

The LPVEC is looking for local citizens to get involved with the school and the many specialty career programs they provide and can assist business owners with hiring trained and able graduate students. For more information, contact Patricia Parker Flores at (413) 735-6300 ext. 2265.

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'Together We Can'

Fundraiser benefits Wounded Warrior Project

By Sarah Platanitis

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Together We Can, a group of four local women business owners, held a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project on Feb. 6 at the Springfield Turnverein in Feeding Hills.

The group raised over \$300 from the sales of admission and raffle tickets, with all proceeds to be donated to the national non-profit organization that provides programs and support services for this generation's injured veterans and their families.

"It's important to do what we can for our soldiers and their families," said Christine Packard, one of the event's organizers. "We wanted to do something as a way to give back. They have sacrificed so much for us and it's important to make sure they know they are not forgotten and we appreciate all they have done."

The cause hits close to home for Packard, a Feeding Hills resident, since her brother served in the Navy and retired from his military career after years in the Air Force.

"I love helping out where I can and we looked at this as a way to give back to the military for all they and their families have sacrificed. It was just a small token of appreciation," she said.

The first 25 guests to the family-friendly event were entered into a drawing and the entertaining "Quarter Mania" auction featured prizes from direct-sell companies like Scentsy, Origami Owl, Perfectly Posh, Pam-

pered Chef, Scarlet Scarves, Patties Gourmet Cupcakes, Celebrating Home, Dove Chocolates, Tastefully Simple, Tupperware and Gifts from the Garden.

Attendees could buy their favorite items with a little math, a few quarters and some fun. One of the popular auction baskets donated from Scentsy included a service warmer with a scent bar.

"You 'rent' a paddle and as each individual item comes up, depending on the value of the item, you would bid a quarter, 50 cents, 75 cents or \$1 and place that in a bucket and hold your paddle in the air. If your number is called you win the item," said Packard.

The women's group hosts between four and six quarter auctions per year.

"Each time we will choose a different cause. In May, we are doing another one at the Springfield Turnverein to benefit The Relay For Life," said Packard.

The Wounded Warrior Project benefits over 47,000 servicemen and women who have been injured in the recent military conflicts. "In addition

to the physical wounds," the organization's website states, "It is estimated as many as 400,000 service members live with the invisible wounds of war including combat-related stress, major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Another 320,000 are believed to have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment."

"It's important for people to help raise money to support such a wonderful cause," said Packard. "Without those soldiers we wouldn't have what we do."

To learn more about the Wounded Warrior Project, visit woundedwarriorproject.org. To stay up-to-date with news about the next Together We Can auction and the upcoming events at the Springfield Turnverein, visit springfieldturnverein.com.

"It's important to do what we can for our soldiers and their families."

**Christine Packard
Feeding Hills**

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Education chief visits Robinson Park School

CHIEF, from page 1

Palazzi said it was “an honor and a pleasure” to have Malone visit her school. “We’ve never had anyone of this level come here in the 12 years that I’ve been principal,” she said. Palazzi added that Cameron, Lilian, and Sophia were “thrilled” with the honor of greeting Malone and showing him around their school. “What they liked most about him was that he respected them and made them feel important.”

Among the classrooms visited by Malone was fourth-grade teacher Tara Witte’s. She said Malone was “extremely pleasant and interacted very well” with students when he asked what they were working on and about some things that he noticed in the classroom.

“He was genuinely interested in student responses and didn’t rush them in their conversations. The children were ecstatic that Dr. Malone visited and chatted with them. Many of them were proud to say that were able to meet ‘a famous person.’”

Superintendent William Sapelli called Malone’s tour “a great visit.” He said Malone was enthusiastic about what he saw in the classrooms and the physical condition of the school that opened in 1959.

“It was a whirlwind tour. He spent about 45 minutes touring the school,” said Sapelli. Malone, a Marine veteran, briefly chatted with teachers, administrators, and school committee members, but spent much of his time talking to students, added Sapelli.

“There are so many good things happening every day in every room – and I was happy to show them all off.”

Cynthia Palazzi,
principal
Robinson Park
Elementary School

Students a priority of ‘low-key’ visit
Sapelli called Malone’s tour a “low-key” visit. “He wasn’t here to get attention. Secretary Malone is a hands-on guy – he came here to talk with kids and find out firsthand what they’re learning,” said Sapelli.

Malone’s visit also fulfilled a pledge the secretary made upon taking office. “One of the reasons he came here was to show that he knows where we are – and to help dispel the common belief that Western Massachusetts schools are ignored by state leaders in Boston.”

Neff said Malone’s visits are “a great opportunity to spend time and get an honest assessment of how schools are doing, what their needs are, and how he can help.”

EOE was established six years ago in partnership with the commissioners and departments of Early Education and Care, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education and the University of Massachusetts system. Neff said although Malone’s office is in Boston, he has visited 100 schools in the past year – from Western Massachusetts to the Cape and Islands.

Malone, who began his education career as a Boston teacher, has made it “a top priority” to visit local schools. “He wants to see their best practices, to encourage students to ‘Go-Public’ and choose to attend our state colleges and universities, to hear concerns and see what is working,” she said.

Turley Publications wins four press association awards

AWARD, from page 1

place winning selections combined.

Belchertown *Sentinel* editor Aimee M. Henderson received second place in the Weekly Class 2 Feature Photo category for her photo that appeared on the front page of the March 21, 2013 edition of *The Sentinel*. The photo was of a kindergarten student catching a drop of maple sap, seen in the photo in mid-air, fresh from the tree after it was tapped during a school event.

The additional second place award went to *Wilbraham-Hampden Times* editor Charles Bennett in the Weekly Class 2 History Reporting category. Bennett did a series

of ghost stories reflecting on the town’s rich history.

Both of Turley’s third place wins went to *The Journal Register*, based in Palmer. Staff writer and photographer Emily Thurlow won in the Weekly Class 1 Photo Series for her coverage of firefighter training. Her photos captured the intensity of a scene firefighters face when they are called to the scene of an actual fire. Turley’s advertising department won for a special advertising supplement about Wing Memorial Hospital’s 100th anniversary that appeared in *The Journal Register*.

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West of the River Chamber to host breakfast

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will host its legislative breakfast Wednesday, Feb. 26, an event which brings members and non-members together for a morning of breakfast and legislative updates.

The event, sponsored by Health New England, Spherion and Insurance Center of New England, will take place at the Storowton Tavern’s Carriage House in West Springfield. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with local business people over breakfast, and later will enjoy an informational

session given by a panel of legislatures, including state Sen. Don Humason, state Sen. James Welch, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, state Rep. Michael Finn, Mayor Richard A. Cohen and Mayor Edward Sullivan, of West Springfield. Political consultant Anthony Cignoli will emcee the event and also offer economic updates.

The public is invited. The event is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, call the West of the River Chamber of Commerce office at (413) 426-3880.

Rabies clinic scheduled for March 15

The town of Agawam rabies and micro-chipping clinic will be held Saturday, March 15 from 10 a. m. to noon at Dave’s Soda and Pet City, located at 151 Springfield St., Agawam.

The price of a rabies vaccine is \$12. The microchip is \$20 and includes the registration of the chip. Dog licenses for

2014 will also be issued. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be secured in a carrier.

Owners of pets eligible for a three-year vaccine must bring the previous year’s certificate. For more information or assistance, call Allison Strong, Agawam Animal Control, at 726-9754.

Council to reconsider union contracts

COUNCIL, from page 1

file charges of prohibited practice with the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations.

“I would like for the counsel to tell us what we can or cannot do in regard to these contracts,” said Letellier.

When the resolutions for funding were defeated on Jan. 21, Mayor Richard A. Cohen was asked by the city council to return to the negotiating table with the seven unions.

Cohen wrote to the presidents of the seven unions expressing disappointment the contracts were turned down. He asked how the unions wished to proceed. He received a response from Attorney John Connor on Jan. 24 stating that the four unions he represented refused to re-negotiate.

The remaining three unions wrote letters in support of Connor’s position.

“We feel the city council made no assertion that it lacked sufficient funding to support the modest wage increases contained in these agreements,” Connor’s letter stated. “The only telling comment during the discussion preceding the vote was by Chairman Christopher Johnson who appeared upset that the city council had told the mayor prior to commencing negotiations not to exceed 1.5 percent in the first year.

“These comments by Mr. Johnson firmly establish that the city council seeks to negotiate directly with the town’s unions in violation with Massachusetts General Law.”

Connor stated for those reasons, the union

refused to re-negotiate.

Cohen said last week he was disappointed that the council chose not to fund the contracts. He said despite the council cutting the funding for salary reserve in fiscal year 2014, there was enough money to fund the 2 percent raise the unions are requesting.

The proposed raises for the three years of the contract are 2 percent in 2014, 1.5 percent in 2015, and 1.5 percent in 2016. Unions in the school department received the same raises during their contract negotiations.

In turning down the contracts on Jan. 21, Councilors Johnson, Dennis Perry, Robert Rossi, Donald Rheault, and Cecilia Calabrese voted against the contracts while Councilors George Bitzas, Paul Cavallo, Anthony Suffriti, James Cichetti, and Joseph Mineo voted in favor.

Johnson and Perry both argued on Jan. 21 that they made a cut in the salary reserve that would only allow for a 1.5 percent salary increase during the current fiscal year. Bitzas argued for the raises, stating that the unions were deserving of them and the town could afford the raises.

The affected unions are Agawam Police Supervisors Association, Agawam Clerical Employee’s Association, Agawam Department of Public Works Employee’s Association, Agawam Police Patrolman’s Association, Agawam Building Maintenance Association, Agawam Administrative Unions, and the AFL-CIO Local 1973 Firefighters’ Association.

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Turley Editorial Coverage Policies

CALENDAR

This section is intended to promote “free” events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

EDUCATION

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests at least three days in advance. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly “editorial.” Some readers confuse editorials with being objective “news.” Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

plied through our reporters' stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That's the whole point of the “opinion” page.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

SPORTS

Our Sports Editor Dave Forbes and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups. You can e-mail Dave Forbes at dforbes@turley.com.



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Wilbraham-Hampden Times • The Town Common • Town Reminder • Ware River News

Families

Free ice-skating for residents

AGAWAM - The Parks and Recreation Department has reserved a “Block of Ice” at Amelia Park in Westfield Sunday, Feb. 23 from 5 to 5:50 p.m.

Town residents may pick up passes at the Recreation Office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There are limited tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Skate rentals are available for \$3 per person at Amelia Park.

O’Connor graduates basic training



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Airman Michael P. O’Connor

Air Force Airman Michael P. O’Connor graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

O’Connor is the son of Carl O’Connor of Agawam and Christine O’Connor of Huntington. He is a 2013 graduate of Agawam High School.

St. Pat’s Committee welcomes new members

The Agawam St. Patrick’s Committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Father Joyce Room at St. John the Evangelist Social Center.

Reports from the Colleen Coronation Committee, Float Committee and the Events Committee on the progress of the next event, a corned beef and cabbage supper in March, will be presented. Any other reports will be submitted at that time.

New members are welcome.

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SCOUTS TOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Members of Agawam Junior Girl Scout Troop 11085 visited the Agawam Police Department recently to earn their “Detective Badge.” Sgt. Anthony Grasso and Officer Brian Strong gave a tour of the department and explained how they protect and serve the community. It was a fascinating learning experience for the girls and they were full of questions. As a thank you, the girls presented both officers with boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

Navy Midshipman gets ship assignment

Navy Midshipman Justin D. Dion, the son of Benoit Dion of Feeding Hills, recently selected his first ship assignment during a Ship Selection ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Dion is scheduled to report to USS Howard.

Ship Selection is the culmination of the service assignment process for Naval Academy midshipmen designated to serve as commissioned Navy Surface Warfare Officers upon graduation. As Navy Surface Warfare Officers, these midshipmen may be in charge of any number of shipboard operations and activities while at sea, and are trained extensively to maintain and operate Navy ships, their crews and their systems.

At the event the midshipmen had the opportunity to meet their future leadership and were welcomed into the Surface Warfare community.

The future 243 Surface Warfare Officers of the Naval Academy class of 2014 will graduate May 23 and report for duty aboard their selected ships soon after.

Dion is a 2010 graduate of Agawam High School.

Junior Women to host area journalist

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club will host *Agawam Advertiser News* correspondent Mike Lydick as a guest speaker Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The club will meet at Agawam Senior Center on Main Street. Social time starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by the speaker at 7 p.m.

For membership questions, call Christina at 413-427-8784.

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In the Classroom

'Vacation Movie Night' to benefit AHS bands

The Agawam Family Cinemas, in cooperation with the Agawam High School Band Parents Association, will host a special "Vacation Movie Night" Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

Moviegoers will have their choice of one of the two movies playing that evening for a special ticket price of \$10 per person, which will include admission, popcorn, and soft drink. Agawam Family Cinemas will donate 50 percent of the entire evening's proceeds to the Agawam High School Band Parents Association.

Pre-purchase of the Special Vacation Movie Night Passes is recommended, and may be done by contacting Paige Wier at paigeesq@comcast.net. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on Feb. 19.

Agawam Family Cinemas, an independent, two-screen movie theater showing the latest acclaimed and mainstream movies, as well as independent, foreign, and children's films, is located at 866 Suffield St.

Advertising Club scholarship applications available

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee announces scholarship applications are now available online at adclubwm.org. Applications will also be available through guidance departments at high schools in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, or by contacting the Ad Club at (413) 736-2582.

Western Massachusetts seniors that have been accepted by an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts and will be attending in September are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

This year, one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded. Completed scholarship applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club and postmarked by Monday, April 28. Scholarship decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee of Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, and are considered final. The scholarship will be awarded at the Ad Club's June professional development luncheon.

D.A.R.E. graduation held at Doering School



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Pictured at the recent D.A.R.E. graduation held at the Roberta G. Doering School are (back row, from left), Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Police Chief Eric Gillis, Roberta G. Doering School Assistant Principal Susan Federico, D.A.R.E. Officer John Field, Schools Business Administrator Robert Clickstein, Resource Officer Robert Burke, and D.A.R.E. Officer Karen Langevin. Front row, from left, essay contest winners AJ Dillard, Christian Fisk, David Dagenais, Trinity Boliski, and Sarah Ross

D.A.R.E. graduation was held Jan. 31 at the Roberta G. Doering School auditorium for rooms 104, 105, 202, 203, 204, 210, and 211. D.A.R.E. is taught as a half-year course and two graduation ceremonies are held, one in January and one in June, each featuring half of the fifth grade.

In order to graduate, all students must submit a

D.A.R.E. essay describing what they learned in D.A.R.E. and how they plan to use that knowledge. Of the approximately 175 essays submitted, five were chosen as being outstanding and were read by the students who wrote them at the graduation. The five students chosen were Trinity Boliski, David Dagenais, AJ Dillard, Christian Fisk, and Sarah Ross.

Museums present 'Sights and Sounds of the Rainforest'

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Museums have announced their slate of activities for the upcoming school vacation week, Feb. 17-21. The weeklong program, titled “Sights and Sounds of the Rainforest,” will feature family-friendly performances and live animal demonstrations along with hands-on activities and planetarium shows.

All activities are free with the price of museum admission unless noted otherwise.

Special demonstrations and performances taking place during the week will include:

Feb. 17: Animals of the Tropical Rainforest - Live animal demo by Teaching Creatures (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.); The Wild About Rainforest Balloon Magic Show - Jungle Jim (1 p.m.)

Feb. 18: The Ecology of Sound: Exploring the Sounds of the Rainforest - Ricardo Frota (1 p.m.)

Feb. 19: Crocodile River Music - African and African-influenced music including Brazilian, Caribbean and Flamenco (1 p.m.)

Feb. 20: Earth Rhythms - Roger Tincknell. Captivating songs, stories, and legends (1 p.m.)

Feb. 21: The Rainforest Reptile Show - Live animal demonstration (two shows- noon and 2 p.m.)

The Springfield Museums are located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. in downtown Springfield. Free, secure onsite parking is available. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call (413) 263-6800 ext 488.

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AHS Counseling Bulletin

College Acceptances:
Joshua Schuler: Johnston State College; Merisa Boyd: UMass Boston, Suffolk University, Emmanuel College; Becker College; Briahna Hersom: Sacred Heart University, University of Rhode Island; William Fairlie, University of Maine; David North: Westfield State University; Michael Gonet: Worcester State University, Framingham State University; Joshua Hodges: Fitchburg State University; Margaret Frawley: University of Dayton; Caitlin McCarthy: Bennington College; Zachary Goggin: SUNY Institute of Technology; Rachel Beusee-Kauffman: Fitchburg State University, University of Rhode Island.

Open Houses/Informational Session: Many colleges will host events in the next few weeks. Check the counseling website for listings.

STCC Decision Day: STCC will hold On-The-Spot Decision Day at AHS March 11. Interested applicants must sign up in the counseling office. Signed applications must be submitted that day. No application fee is needed.

ACT's: April 12 - sign up by March 7; June 14 - sign up by May 9.

SAT's: March 8 - sign up by Feb. 7; May 3 - sign up by April 4; June 7 - sign up by May 9.

Springfield National College Fair: Sunday, March 30, 1-4 p.m. at The Big E. Register www.gotomyncf.com. View a

list of participating institutions by clicking on the college fair link on the same website. Check the list often for updates.

Financial Aid: American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid applications. Call (877) 332-4348 or visit www.asa.org/plan for assistance.

Seniors: Colleges/universities (4 year) are looking for your term 2 grades. Give Mrs. Ledger, counseling secretary, a regular-sized envelope with your name in the left hand corner, 1 stamp in the right hand corner and the address of each school you applied to for the end of this month. She will provide them with an updated transcript once grades are all set.

FAFSA Day (College Goal Sunday): A volunteer driven program providing free assistance to students and families seeking to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. at Holyoke Community College. Parents should bring their FAFSA Pin (www.pin.ed.gov), social security number, driver's license number, most recent federal tax return, most recent W-2 or year-end pay stub, untaxed income records, bank statement(s), business and investment records and alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen). For more information, visit www.fafsa-day.org.

Campus Notes...

College of the Holy Cross: Michael A. Andre, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

The College of Saint Rose: Lauren Booth, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Fairfield University: Chloe Scherpa, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Springfield College: Courtney Rivest and Carmen Ruiz-Robles, of Agawam; and Jennifer Kapinos, Colleen Keeley, Anna Lovotti, Brian Piquette, Briana Stanikmas, Kali Thomas, Nicholas Vecchiarelli, and Christina Vilkhovoy, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

University of New Haven: Alyssa Abraham, Brittney Bussiere, Adam Howe, Courtney Lussier and Megan McNair, of Agawam; and Alyssa Berthiaume and Andrew Walles, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

University of Rhode Island: Carly Michel and Amaris Gagnon, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

ACC to host writing competition awards reception

The Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) will hold a reception Tuesday, March 11 in the community room of the Agawam Public Library to celebrate and honor winners of the fourth Annual Writing Competition. Various town dignitaries have been invited and light refreshments will be served after the presentation. The ACC offers the opportunity to all writers in town in hopes of encouraging a lifelong love of the written word.

The ACC is sponsoring this event as part of its "Give Back to the Community Program" and it is open to the public. First-place winners will be awarded \$50; second-place, \$25; and third-place, \$15.

Awards will be given to:

Grade K-2 - Composition Category: Samantha Gryszowka, first place; Emma LaCaresse, second place; Gianna Grillo, third place.

Grade 3 - Poetry Category: Megan Ball, first place; Stefanee Phillips, second place; Madison Flagg, third place.

Grade 4 - Poetry Category: Taylor Cotton, first place; Gianna Smith, second place; Brooke Rising, third place.

Grades 5-6 - Composition Category: Lindsey Ghidoni, first place; Emily Ball, second place; Emmerson White, third place.

Grades 7-8 - Composition Category: Joshua Lesser, first place; Jacob White, second place; Aili Grace Loftus, third place.

The Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper St., and can be reached at (413) 789-1550.

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Jane Thompson smiles along with the performance.



Cathy DeBonville enjoys the stories of Mark Twain.



The audience applauds the Rosewood Chamber Ensemble.



Barbara Hopkins on flute.



Martha Sienkiewicz gets lost in the music.



Mark Trudell (left) and David Bertagnolli are amused by the story.

‘Melodies of Mark Twain’

The Agawam Cultural Council’s Applause Series continues its 10th season Friday, Feb. 7 with the Rosewood Chamber Ensemble presenting “Melodies of Mark Twain.”

Do you have an event you’d like featured on our page? Email *Agawam Advertiser News* Editor Jennifer W. at jwroblewski@turley.com. Be sure to include your phone number and request in the email subject line.

of
ain'

ntinued its
Ensemble
oto spread
Vroblewski
oto spread



Judy Handler on banjo.



David Bertagnolli was among the crowd present for the "Melodies of Mark Twain" performance recently.

Turley Publications photos by
Kimberly Hatch

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PHOTOS

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tellings.



Judy Handler tells a back story to the song about to be played.



SPORTS

Lusitano, Pioneers strike up partnership

Agawam players honored

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The most important thing people leaving the 25th Annual Lusitano Club High School All-Star Soccer Player Awards Nights found out is that the tradition will continue.

While several all-stars talked about being honored to be a part of the final awards night, they would find out later from guest speaker Steve Scott, that the Western Mass Pioneers Soccer Club will work with the Lusitano Club to continue to sponsor the awards.

“We plan to partner with the Lusitano Club and sponsor the awards for years to come,” said Scott.

The awards dinner has been held for many years and honors the top players in Western Massachusetts for soccer talent and for academic achievement.

Please see SOCCER, page16



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Agawam's Brodie Keane (right) receives his award from Lusitano Vice President Joseph Jorge (left).



Agawam's Morgan Casey (right) was one of two Brownies to be honored. She received her award from Lusitano Board Member Carol Gebo (left).

Agawam uses numbers to overcome Minnechaug

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Forfeits played a role as Agawam's depth outlasted Minnechaug in a dual meet held last Thursday afternoon.

The Brownies beat the Falcons 50-31 in a meet that was made up following a major snowstorm last Wednesday. With time running out on the regular season and the tournament set to be held this weekend, the move was made to make up the meet quickly.

There was some excellent competition with contested matches in the meet. Minnechaug had the slight advantage over Agawam during actually competition. Depth, however, played a bigger role as Agawam picked up four forfeit victories.

At 120 pounds, Ryan Monteiro picked up a pinfall victory over Agawam's Hayden Mendrala.

Monteiro started the match with an aggressive tackle. He was able to score a nearfall and then a second nearfall to take a 7-0 lead. In the second period, Monteiro started down and was able to score an escape quickly. He followed that with another takedown almost immediately and got the pinfall 32 seconds into the second period.

Minnechaug would get two more wins after that with Anthony Monteiro picking up a pinfall at 126 pounds and Steven Kirby defeating Troy Carroll at 132 pounds.

Agawam finally got on the board

See WRESTLING, page 16



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Minnechaug's Steven Kirby tries to break down Agawam's Troy Carroll.



Minnechaug's Anthony Monteiro controls Daigan Bishop in a 126-pound match.

Walles named Scibelli Award recipient

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School football team has achieved a lot of success during the past two years, and most often, their high-scoring offense has been the focus of headlines.

But quarterback Mike Vecchiarelli and his running backs, Steve Comee and Gio Russo, would not have had the success they had if not for a very potent offensive line protecting them.

Enter Chris Walles. Walles is a senior. He has played football since his freshman year of high

school and has been a cornerstone of the success of the Brownies as they moved from a team that was winless a few years ago, to a perfect 8-0 regular season, and a 10-1 season as a whole.

Walles was honored on Tuesday night with the Joe Scibelli Award, which is given to an offensive guard of some kind for excelling at the position.

Joe Scibelli was a Springfield resident who went to Cathedral High School. Scibelli went on to Notre Dame and then was drafted by the L.A. Rams of the NFL. He played offensive guard for fourteen seasons and was a Captain for several of those years.

Please see AWARD, page 16

Brownies skate past Falcons

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – From their perch atop the Berry Division, the Agawam hockey team continued its drive towards a second straight state title. They have taken on all comers and this week beat a resurgent Minnechaug team that has become one of the better teams in Western Mass.

After they finally knocked off the perennial power, South Hadley, the Brownies won Western Mass and then completely the run at sates. They have carried on nicely this year.

The Falcons gave them all they could handle in the first pe-

riod playing the Brownies to a 0-0 score after 15:00. The shots were nearly even, with Agawam holding a slim 8-6 lead. In fact, some of the better chances came off the sticks of the Falcons. Aaron Cyr put one on goal just 30 seconds in from 10 feet and Nick Askins moved quickly for the stop. A minute later, Jake Cranston nearly went short side from 8 feet and midway through, Dominic Falvo and Anthony Piteo broke in with Falvo unloading a screamer from 120 feet, forcing Askins to scramble. In the 10th minute, Tyler Diotalevi sent one from six feet that almost caught the far post.

For their part the Brownies put Ross Kiah on the defensive as

Please see HOCKEY, page 15

Curran tally lifts Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Though Ludlow does not have a lot of Berry Division victories, they have still given first-place Agawam tough challenges this season.

Agawam High School ice hockey defeated the Lions with a third period goal 2-1 last Saturday evening at Olympia Ice Center.

Ludlow was trailing 1-0 and was able to score on a power play to tie the score.

Later, Agawam would get a goal with about 5:00 left in the game, and overcame a late power play and Ludlow's extra attacker to pick up the victory.

Agawam scored late in the first period on a goal from Seamus Curran to give the Brownies the lead. It was a very small margin for error as both defenses were playing excellent. Ludlow was not allowing very much to get to their goaltender Nick Dunn.

After a hotly-contested but quiet second period, Agawam still held a 1-0 lead.

Ludlow would score on a Marc Miller goal. Just after starting a power play, Ludlow would get a faceoff on the Agawam end of the ice. Off the faceoff, Tyler Diotalevi would send the puck to John Arciszewski, and then on to Miller. Miller would shoot from the left side. It was a quick, mid-level shot that got past the glove of Agawam's Chris Walles to tie the score 1-1 with 12:01

remaining in the game.

Ludlow did not let up after allowing the goal. Even with Agawam getting their fifth player back, they were not able to do much for several minutes.

Finally, Agawam intercepted the puck in transition, and started an attack on the Ludlow goal. After a short scrum in the front of the Ludlow goal, it was Curran that got the puck over the goal line for his second goal of the game and an Agawam lead 2-1.

With about a minute remaining, Ludlow played a man up with Dunn removed from the goal. Early on, Agawam nearly notched an empty netter, but the puck just sailed wide right past the goal.

Curran was then sent to the penalty box with about 16 seconds remaining on an interference goal, but Agawam's four-man penalty kill was able to keep Ludlow off the scoreboard.

Agawam beat Ludlow 2-0 to open the season.

Dunn finished with 27 saves while Walles made 25 in picking up the victory.

Agawam is now 11-2-2 for the regular season. They had a game against Westfield postponed due to last Wednesday's snowstorm. Agawam is back in action on Saturday against East Longmeadow at 6 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Goalie Chris Walles tries to gain control of the puck in front of the net.



Players from both teams vie for a puck behind the goal.

COLLEGE NOTES

Rackliffe named MASCAC Women's Basketball Co-Player and Rookie of the Week

FRAMINGHAM – Bridgewater State freshman forward and Feeding Hills resident Alycia Rackliffe has been named the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Women's Basketball Co-Player and Rookie of the Week for the week ending Feb. 9.

Rackliffe earns her third Rookie and first Co-Player of the Week honors this season after averaging 21 points, 11 rebounds and 4.5 blocks while shooting 62 percent from the floor in a 1-1 week for the Rams.

Rackliffe tallied 29 points and 15 rebounds on 12-of-17 shooting from the floor in a 66-61 victory over Fitchburg State and closed the week with 13 points and six blocks in a 77-67 loss at conference leader Bridgewater State.

Ritter delivers for Wentworth

BOSTON - Wentworth men's volleyball freshman and Feeding Hills resident Colin

Ritter had 36 assists, two aces and eight digs in a 3-0 win over Southern Vermont on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Szatrowski named to 2014 Collegiate Baseball Top Players List

TUCSON, Ariz. – With the 2014 baseball season quickly approaching Collegiate Baseball Newspaper has released the 2014 Top NCAA Division III Baseball Players to watch for list. The list which features the best-of-the-best in the country featured three from UMass Boston, including junior lefty Kyle Szatrowski, of Agawam.

Named an All-Little East Conference selection in 2013, Szatrowski comes into his junior season as one of the top starters in the conference. Last season, the Agawam native recorded a team-best 2.65 ERA and 5-2 record. In a total of 57.2 innings of work, Szatrowski held opponents to a .262 average and totaled 26 strikeouts. He went the distance for three complete games, which included a win over nationally ranked St. Joseph's College (Maine) in his first start of the season.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Sacred Heart signups for softball

AGAWAM - Sacred Heart Athletic Association offers softball leagues that can accommodate girls from grades 1-8.

The cost for instructional softball (grades 1-2) is \$75 and NEYSA (grades 3-8) will be \$100.

All registrations will be held at the Sacred Heart Religious Education Center at 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, on the following days: Saturday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, March 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.

We also provide the opportunity to register through the mail. Please visit our website, download the registration form and mail it directly to us! Deadline for mail in registrations is March 5.

Buy, sell and trade new and used fishing and hunting gear (no guns).

The cost is a \$2 donation at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. No cost to park.

There will be raffle prizes.

Polish Club food concessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drinks.

Table space and boat spaces still available. If you would like to sell your items or boat, please call Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.

For more information, go to getyourlinewet.com.

Baseball players wanted

A local baseball team is looking for 9, 10, and 11-year-olds looking to play in some of the best baseball in Western Massachusetts.

The team plays on weekends only.

Can dual roster with local teams.

Guaranteed national tournament.

If interested, please call 1-413-887-8798.

Fishing swap meet set for March 9

AGAWAM - A fishing swam meet will be held on Sunday, March 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St.

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7PM vs. **WOLF-PACK**

FEB. 15TH

HOCKEY 'N' HEELS

RALLY TOWEL GIVEAWAY (FIRST 1,000 FANS)

7PM vs. **SOUND TIGERS**

FEB. 16TH

Pride/Falcons Family Day

Post-Game Skate

3PM vs. **WORCESTER SHARKS**

"Pride / Falcons Family Day"

Special \$12 Tickets

Compliments of Pride

Springfield Falcons vs. Worcester Sharks

Sunday, Feb 16th, 2014 3:00PM

Valid with Coupon Only. Unlimited tickets (based on availability.) Redeem at Box Office. Not to be combined with any other offers or promotions. Expires 2/16/14. Must print coupon to be eligible for offer. Not valid for premium seating.

413.739.GOAL • falconsahl.com

Obituaries & Church News

Chicken dinner open to the public

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The West Springfield United Methodist Church, located at 800 Amostown Road, will host an old-fashioned chicken Dinner Sunday, March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to come enjoy conversation and good food. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6-10, and free for children under 5. The menu will include chicken, stuffed potatoes, vegetable and a dessert bar. For reservations, call Lorraine at 736-6597.

CHURCH DIRECTOR

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Howells
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service.
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
email agawamumc@gmail.com
agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month. Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.
Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.
AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Innhomeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of Praise: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Service (Family Night): 7 p.m.
Sunday Evening Contemporary Service: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION
50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com
Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhuccoffice@verizon.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
760 Main St., Agawam
Agawambc@localnet.com
www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45
Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net.
www.stdavidsgawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org.
www.stjohagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday - Communion Service

First Congregational to host outreach meals

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Mission Team, along with staff, members and friends of First Church, will host the West Springfield Parish Association Outreach Meals, which began Feb. 12 at this new location. The outreach meals, organized by Mike and Rose Desrosiers, grew from a single monthly breakfast several years ago, to four meals a month. In addition to breakfasts and suppers supplied by the Lions Club and various church groups,

they now offer free seasonal clothing, groceries, children’s books and activities, and most recently free haircuts for men and women. First Church welcomes this new partnership that offers warm and accepting shelter from life’s hardships for hundreds of people. Additional breakfasts will take place Saturday, Feb. 15 and 22 from 9-10 a.m., and a supper Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 5-6 p.m. All are welcome.

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

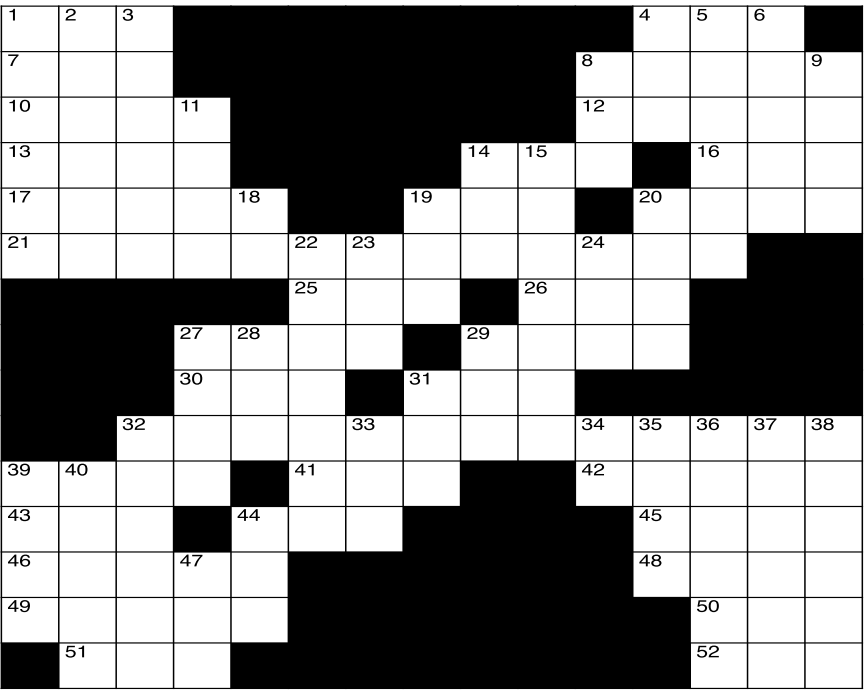
Bouchard, Victor W.
Died Feb. 6, 2014
Funeral Feb. 11, 2014
Agawam Funeral Home

Spellacy, John M.
Died Feb. 10, 2014
Funeral Feb. 13, 2014
Sacred Heart Church
Springfield

Valenti, Yolanda
Died Feb. 9, 2014
Funeral Feb. 12, 2014
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. *Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 - 4. Licenses TV stations
 - 7. Brain wave test
 - 8. Rowing fulcrum peg
 - 10. Arabian Gulf
 - 12. 55121 MN
 - 13. Trash & tin
 - 14. Actress Farrow
 - 16. Egg of a louse
 - 17. Lesion
 - 19. A Scottish cap
 - 20. Poi vegetable
 - 21. Illness from neurosis
 - 25. Moving truck
 - 26. Gallivant
 - 27. Millisecond
 - 29. Trigonometric function
 - 30. Pinna
 - 31. Loud noise
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Saucer’s companion
 - 2. Foot controls
- 3. Administrative unit
 - 4. Residential mortgage authority
 - 5. High quality French brandy
 - 6. Gilbert O’Sullivan song
 - 8. Steeped beverage
 - 9. Prefix used in anatomy, biology
 - 11. Nanosecond (abbr.)
 - 14. Mayan language
 - 15. Create mentally
 - 18. Atomic #45
 - 19. 2000 pounds
 - 20. Oceanic rise or fall
 - 22. Did to excess
 - 23. Pouch or baglike structure
 - 24. Browning of the skin
- 27. A fitting reward (archaic)
 - 28. Diego, Francisco or Anselmo
 - 29. Cognate
 - 31. Physicians
 - 32. Duplicity
 - 33. Doctor of Education
 - 34. E. Canadian province
 - 35. Beat thoroughly
 - 36. \$10 gold coins
 - 37. Monarchs or dictators
 - 38. Duke: “The Silver Fox”
 - 39. Dull claptrap
 - 40. Showed old movie
 - 44. Express pleasure
 - 47. Reciprocal of a sine

Arts

Applause Series continues with Louis Armstrong tribute

The 10th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series continues Friday, March 7 at 7 p.m. when Dixieland Stomp performs "The Life, Times, and Music of Louie Armstrong" at the Agawam Senior Center.

From a tough childhood in early 20th century New Orleans to the jazz clubs of Chicago, Harlem, and Hollywood, Louis Armstrong persevered to become the most famous New Orleans Jazz trumpeter of all time, playing with the leading bands of Jazz and Swing eras.

Dixieland Stomp specializes in the music of Louis Armstrong — New Orleans four-beat style and up-beat Chicago tempos — and will perform selections from throughout Armstrong's musical career, including popular hits such as "Hello Dolly" and rarities from

his early days in Chicago.

This high-energy, foot-stomping performance combines humorous lyrics and just plain fun for a great time for everyone from eight to 80. The sextet consists of musicians David Neill (bass trombone), Edward Mari (clarinet), Gene Bartley (trombone), David Bilodeau (trumpet), Jason Bouchard (tuba) and Ben Falkoff (banjo).

This event is sponsored by Grimaldi and Burzduk Realtors.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at (413) 821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

The 10th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series continues March 7 with "The Life, Times, and Music of Louie Armstrong" at the Agawam Senior Center. Members of Dixieland Stomp are, from left, David Neill, Jason Bouchard, David Bilodeau, Ben Falkoff, Ed Mari, and Gene Bartley.

Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 13, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Steve R. Cincotta (S-C Realty), who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7, Paragraph B(2) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances to allow for the expansion of a business located at the premises identified as 1408 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
2/6,2/13/14

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 7, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 24, 2014 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Olga Kripakova, who is seeking a Variance from Section 180-23, Paragraph K of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances to allow for the raising and keeping of poultry at the premises identified as 1038 North St. Extension.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
2/6,2/13/14

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court**

Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD13P0676GD In the Interests of: **Bruce H Lucier** Of: Agawam, MA **RESPONDENT** **Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person** **CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 03/03/2014. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely

take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 03, 2014
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P0220GD In the matter of: **Hermine M Pietruski** Of: Agawam, MA **RESPONDENT** **Alleged Incapacitated Person** **CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **John E Sullivan** of Sequim, WA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Hermine M Pietruski** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **John E Sullivan** of Sequim, WA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a

Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 02/21/2014. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 06, 2014
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
2/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD11P2150GD In the Interests of **Hermine M Pietruski** Of Holyoke, MA **RESPONDENT** **Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person** **CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A GUARD- IAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **John E Sullivan** of Sequim, WA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Remove the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to

object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 02/21/2014. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expenses.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court

Date: February 06, 2014
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
2/13/14

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All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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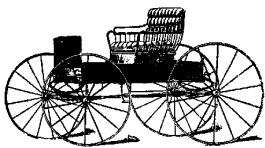
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Theriault crowned 2014 Agawam Colleen

COLLEEN, from page 1

her entire experience. Also, my mother was the Springfield Colleen, so I knew that this would make her so proud. I knew there was no better way to express my Irish heritage.”

Theriault was asked at the coronation what local cause she supported most and why. She talked about her family’s charity known as Griffin’s Friends. The cause was named after her cousin who passed away. The charity helps families of cancer-stricken children while they go through the treatment process.

The new Colleen balanced nervousness and excitement throughout the interview process. She found comfort with her fellow contestants.

“The committee made everything run smoothly and made us as comfortable as possible,” said Theriault.

Every Colleen and her court have worked to create their own identity and closeness as they perform their duties. Theriault said she and her court have already begun that process.

“Before the contest even began, the girls and myself were talking about how we want to raise awareness to other teenage girls about participating in the contest,” said Theriault. “I know all of us will definitely think up a good way to do so. I am not sure on other events just yet, but I know when we get the chance to sit down and talk about it we will come up with some amazing ideas.”

Theriault also received the William Pfau award for her essay talking about her family’s creation of Griffin’s Friends, one of her many inspirations in promoting her Irish heritage.

Kerry DeForge, Hannah McCluskey, Jordyn Conway, Lauren Malone, and Mary Kate Reidy were the other participants in the contest. All five were named to the Colleen Court and will ride on the St. Patrick’s Day parade float in Holyoke.

At this year’s ceremony, the St. Patrick’s Day Committee also had their awards ceremony, honoring three that have contributed to promoting Irish culture.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Colleen Court members Lauren Malone, Jordyn Conway, Kelly Theriault, Kerry DeForge, Hannah McCluskey, and Mary Kate Reidy.

Maurice Casey was named the 2014 Parade Marshall for Agawam. He will lead the Agawam participants in the parade. Casey has been on the St. Patrick’s Committee since 2001 and is a long-time resident of Agawam.

Barbara Foley received the Anne Sullivan Award. Foley was honored for her long service to the committee, including grant writing, float preparation, and fulfilling many other needs of the committee.

Bob Kadis was given the Citizenship Award. Kadis has lived in Agawam since 2002. He is a longtime member of the Agawam Cultural Council and helped create the juried art show at the Agawam Public Library.



From left to right: 2014 Parade Marshall Maurice Casey, Anne Sullivan Award winner Barbara Foley, Citizenship Award winner Bob Kadis.

Agawam woman honored as heart health ambassador



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Dee Emery-Ferrero, right, was among 12 women honored as ambassadors by the American Women’s Hearth Health Association.

Dee Emery-Ferrero, of Agawam, was among 12 women chosen as 2014 “Go Red Leading Ladies” by The American Women’s Heart Health Association.

Ferrero is showcased along with 11 other women in a promotional poster that was unveiled during a ceremony held last month at Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The poster will travel to various venues throughout western Massachusetts during the year.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women and is more deadly than all forms of cancer. The “Go Red for Women” program was created by The American Heart Association and challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce their personal risk. It also gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life.

The other women featured in the pro-

motional poster include Teresa Hudson, of Springfield; Bridget Glasheen and Joanna Guindon, both of West Springfield; Gerda Maissel, of Longmeadow; Angela Smith and Lynn Vedovelli, both of East Longmeadow; Abby Mahoney, of Holyoke; Janet Garcia, of Westfield; Sandy Fickert, of Easthampton; Maura McCaffrey, of West Brookfield; and Allison Wolfe, of Pittsfield.

The women will serve as ambassadors for Women’s Heart Health during February and will also be introduced at the Women’s Heart Health Luncheon and workshop scheduled for March 7 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

These women were chosen from dozens of nominees based on their commitment, support and experience with the disease and include moms, entrepreneurs, health care specialists, heart survivors, retirees, and business leaders.

AJWC seeks sponsor support

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club (AJWC) is seeking raffle and sponsorship support for its Runway for Education Fashion Show and Brunch to benefit its annual scholarships and education programs. The AJWC will host a Runway for Education Fashion Show and Brunch Sunday, April 6.

Area businesses and retailers are invited to partner with them for this event with a contribution toward raffles or by purchasing one of the following black and white program ad sponsorship opportunities - \$100 for a full page ad (gold sponsor); \$50 for a half page ad (silver sponsor); or \$25 for a business card ad (bronze sponsor).

Contributions may be mailed to GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club, Attn: Mary O’Connell, Raffle/Sponsorship Coordinator, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001 and must be received no later than Friday, March 14. In addition to scholarship distributions, the AJWC sponsors the annual Spelling Bee and Bingo for Books event.

For more information on how to support AJWC’s annual scholarship fund and education programs, call O’Connell at (413) 789-8908. The Agawam Junior Women’s Club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts.

Parish Cupboard to benefit from Eagle Scout Project

Matthew Christian, a member of Scout Troop 185 in Agawam, is collecting non-perishable food items as well as toiletries for the month of February as part of his Eagle Project and is looking for community support.

His goal is to fill a trailer to be delivered

to the Parish Cupboard in West Springfield, which serves Agawam as well.

Donations may be dropped off at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Main and Elm streets in Agawam each Saturday this month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

‘Turkish Coffee Night’ at Agawam Library

The Turkish Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts will hold a “Turkish Coffee Night” at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Friday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

There will be a short video presentation on Turkey followed by a Turkish dance demonstration, snacks and music. Information on activities at the Turkish Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, located in Agawam, will be available. Homemade Turkish appetizers and authentic Turkish coffee prepared by Turkish Cultural Center volunteers will

be served.

The event will highlight customs from the Karadeniz region of Turkey in the Trabzon province, located on the Black Sea. Trabzon is one of the major cities of Turkey’s north-eastern coast and home to the Sumela Monastery and Lake Uzungol.

The public is invited to enjoy an evening of Turkish dance, music and food. The event is free and registration is not necessary.

For more information, call library at (413) 789-1550 ext. 8855.

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote “free” events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Sunday, Feb. 16

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A video about doubled die error coins will be shown and a small auction will take place. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For information, call Peter Setian at 596-9871.

A FREE NOTICING NATURE GUIDED FAMILY WALK will take place from 1-2 p.m. at Mt. Tom State Reservation, 125 Reservation Road, Holyoke. For families and curious adults. Dress for the weather with sturdy shoes for ice or snow. Meet at the Stone House Visitor Center, jct Reservation Road and Christopher Clark Road. Inclement weather cancels. For more information, call (413) 584-6788.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

THE eREADERS & LIBRARIES event from Monday, Feb. 3 at the Agawam Public Library has been rescheduled for tonight at 6:30 p.m.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie (“The American Presi-

dent”) at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT to be held at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Nancy Babb, piano; Anita Anderson Cooper, soprano; and David Garrido, piano. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

THE AFRICAN CHILDREN’S CHOIR will perform at the Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St. at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to all. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children’s Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development programs.

Thursday, Feb. 20

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

SIGNS OF THE SEASON GUIDED FREE FAMILY PROGRAM will take place Saturday, Feb. 22 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Mt. Tom State Reservation. Indoor activities and

outdoor exploration. Meet inside the Bray Lake Warming Hut, 125 Reservation Road. Dress in warm layers with sturdy shoes. Inclement weather or severe cold cancels. Call (413) 584-6788 after 11 a.m. to check.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered at the Agawam Public Library Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. It is a beginner’s class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.

A CARD & COLLECTIBLE SHOW will be held Sunday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

SHAKESPEARE & CO., OUT OF LENOX returns to Agawam High School once again, courtesy of the Agawam Cultural Council, to perform an edited version of “Romeo and Juliet,” Tuesday, March 11 at 10 a.m., with doors open to the public at 9:30 a.m. For reservations, which are required, or more information, contact Andrea LaPlace, chairperson of the “Agawam Cultural Council in the Schools” program, at (413) 786-6753 or andrealaplace@comcast.net. It is free and open to the public.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, March 12 at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Storowton offers winter vacation program

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Storowton Village Museum will open its historic buildings and homes to youngsters for “A Day Away in the Past,” a popular winter vacation program, Feb. 19 or 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

Children ages 7 through 12 will don cloth caps, pullover shirts, dresses and bonnets for the day and experience Early American village life at the historic site. Clothing isn’t the only tradition they will experience as they travel through the Village’s building and learn about history, crafts and traditions of yesteryear.

The day begins with a step back in time in the 1834 Meetinghouse, originally located at Salisbury, New Hampshire’s Smith’s Corner. This is where the transformation begins as the children dress in period-inspired clothing supplied by Storowton Village.

Youngsters in this program will learn crafts and play games of the period. Crafts include candle dipping, quill pen calligraphy and more as well as indoor games of skill.

The cost for the one-day program is \$40. Registration must be received by Feb. 14. To register or find out more about this program, call the Storowton Village Museum office at (413) 205-5051.



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Vacation week programs at the Agawam Library

The Agawam Public Library will host the following vacation week programs. All programs are free but registration is required unless noted and may be done by going to www.agawamlibrary.org. For more information or for help with registration, visit the library or call Youth Services at 789-1550 ext 3.

Olympic Medal Hunt: All week long, for ages 3 and up. Hunt for Olympic Medals in the Children’s Room, complete a form and receive one raffle ticket for a special prize.

Olympic Bingo: Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 2:30 p.m., for grades K-3.

Glo-Games: Thursday, Feb. 20 from 6–7:30 p.m. for ages 8–12. Enjoy interactive games like Frisbee and Twister in a dark room with “Glow” for light.

Curious Creatures: Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m., for ages 3 and older. Learn about the habitats and behaviors of a variety of exotic and unusual creatures. Touch and hold the animals and ask questions.

Meet the Robots: Thursday, Feb. 20 from 2-4 p.m. For ages 5 and older. Stop by the library and meet students from Agawam’s Robotics Teams- and their Robots. No registration required.

Movie Matinee: Friday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m., for ages 5 and up. “Planes” from above the world of “Cars” from Disney. An action packed animated comedy adventure. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. (Rated G; 88 minutes)

Winter Fun Festival: Saturday, Feb. 22 from 1-3p.m., for ages 3 and up. The Agawam Library Teen Council offers a fun afternoon of games, crafts, food, and face painting.

Join the fun anytime between 1-3 p.m. Registration required.

Red Cross schedules blood drives

The American Red Cross will community blood drives Wednesday, March 5 from 2-7 p.m. at The Ice Cream Shop, 459 Springfield St., Agawam; Saturday, March 15 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.,; and Thursday, March 20 from 1-6 p.m. at OMG Inc., 153 Bowles Road, Agawam.

All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. Blood donors are needed every day to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need.

To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

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